

Appendix H

Conservation and Management Actions
Documentation – Revised and Updated for the
Proposed BLM LUPA

H. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS DOCUMENTATION – REVISED AND UPDATED FOR THE PROPOSED BLM LUPA

H.1 Introduction

This appendix includes the supplemental information that supports the biological Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) described in Volume II. This revised and updated Appendix H incorporates most of the concepts and approaches from Appendix H in the Draft DRECP, and unless otherwise noted, incorporates that information by reference. Information not retained by reference in this Appendix has either been moved to specific Volume II CMAs or deleted because it does not apply to BLM managed lands and the Proposed LUPA.

H.2 Biological CMAs Supporting Documentation

H.2.1 Survey Protocols

As described in the LUPA-Wide CMA in LUPA-BIO-1 habitat assessments conducted for DRECP vegetation types will comply with the most recent, up to date and applicable assessment protocols and guidance documents for vegetation and jurisdictional waters and wetlands that have been approved by and/or are in use by BLM and the other regulatory agencies, as applicable.

H.2.2 Habitat Restoration Guidelines

As described in the Draft, DRECP habitat restoration guidelines provide the elements that should be considered, as applicable, in developing site-specific habitat restoration actions used to restore areas disturbed by activities, but not converted. These guidelines are to be used with CMA **LUPA-BIO-7**.

H.2.3 Wildlife Linkages and Connectivity

The following figures depict the wildlife linkages where activities will be configured to avoid and minimize adverse effects to wildlife connectivity and the function of the wildlife linkage. These areas are referenced in CMA **LUPA-BIO-13**.

Figure H-1, depicts the wildlife linkages in the Eastern Riverside SEZ/DFA that are required to implement CMA **LUPA-BIO-13**.

Figure H-2, depicts landscape-level, wildlife linkages and corridors that are part of implementing CMA **LUPA-BIO-13**.

H.2.4 Aeolian and Sand Transport Areas

The Aeolian and sand transport areas shown in Figure H-3 are part of implementing CMA **LUPA-BIO-DUNE-1**, for configuring activities to maintain the function of these areas.

H.2.5 Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds

As described in CMA **LUPA-BIO-16**, in Section II.3.1.2.5.3, activities that will likely impact bird and bat Focus and BLM Special Status Species during construction, operations, and maintenance will develop and implement actions to avoid and minimize direct mortality. This CMA is consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BLM and USFWS to promote the conservation of migratory birds (BLM and USFWS 2010). The purpose of the MOU is to strengthen migratory bird conservation by identifying and implementing strategies that promote conservation and avoid or minimize adverse impacts to migratory birds through enhanced collaboration between the BLM and USFWS, in coordination with state, tribal, and local governments. The MOU contains specific measures for both BLM and USFWS including the development of migratory bird conservation measures such as the measures in the USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines.

H.2.6 Avoidance and Minimization for Agricultural Lands

This strategy and these CMAs from the Draft DRECP do not apply to BLM managed land and have been removed from the BLM Proposed LUPA and Final EIS.

H.2.7 Swainson's Hawk Active Nest Setback Areas

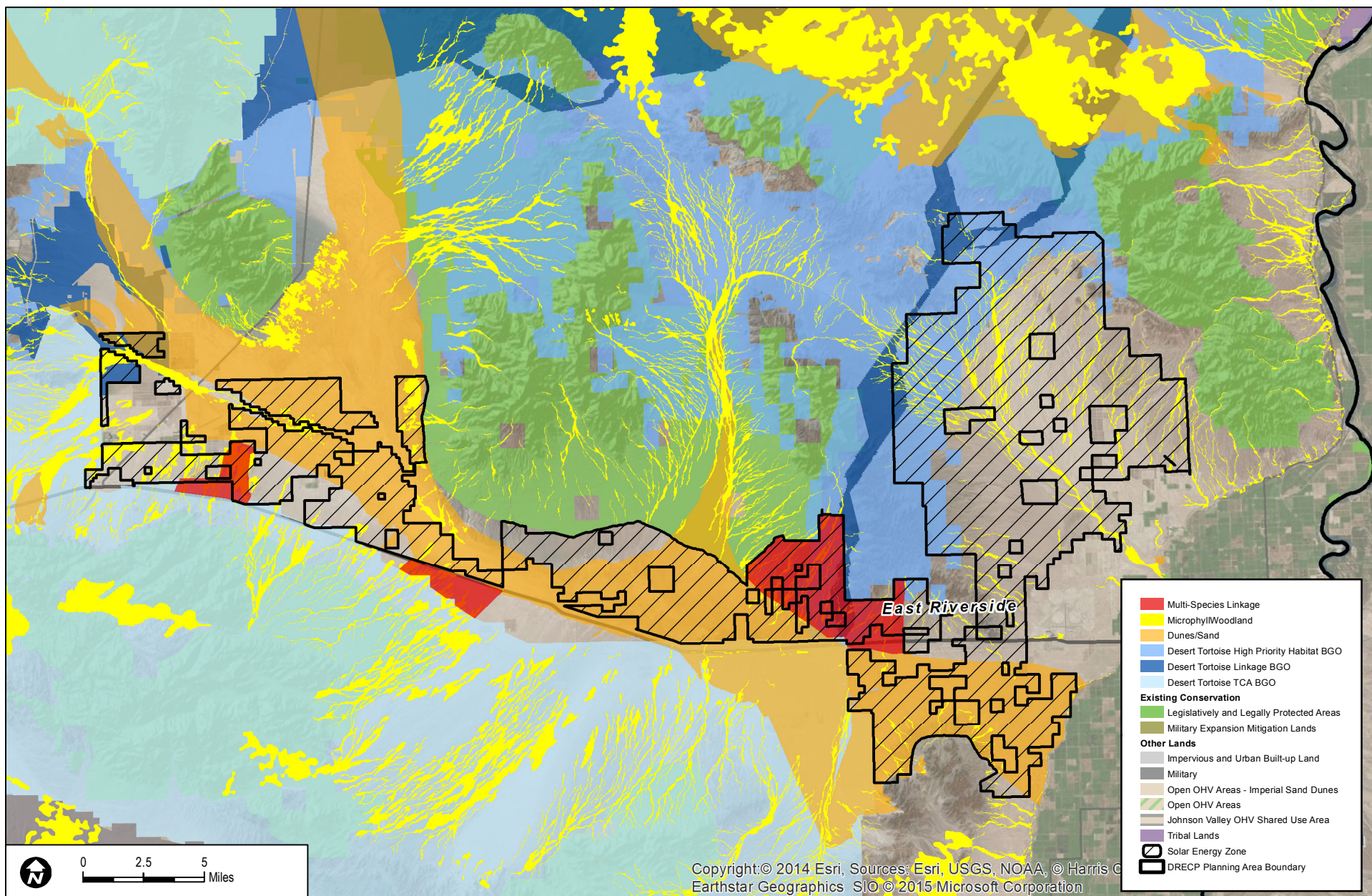
The Proposed LUPA has a 0.5 mile set back from active nest if the activity is in a DFA or VPL; see CMA **DFA-VPL-BIO-IFS-2**. Figure H-5 from the Draft does not apply to BLM managed lands and has been removed from the Proposed LUPA and Final EIS.

H.2.8 Burrowing Owl Recommended Verification and Exclusion Methods

The recommended methods and details for Burrowing Owl exclusion and verification as described in the Draft DRECP are to be utilized with CMA **LUPA-BIO-IFS-13**.

H.2.9 Individual Focus Species

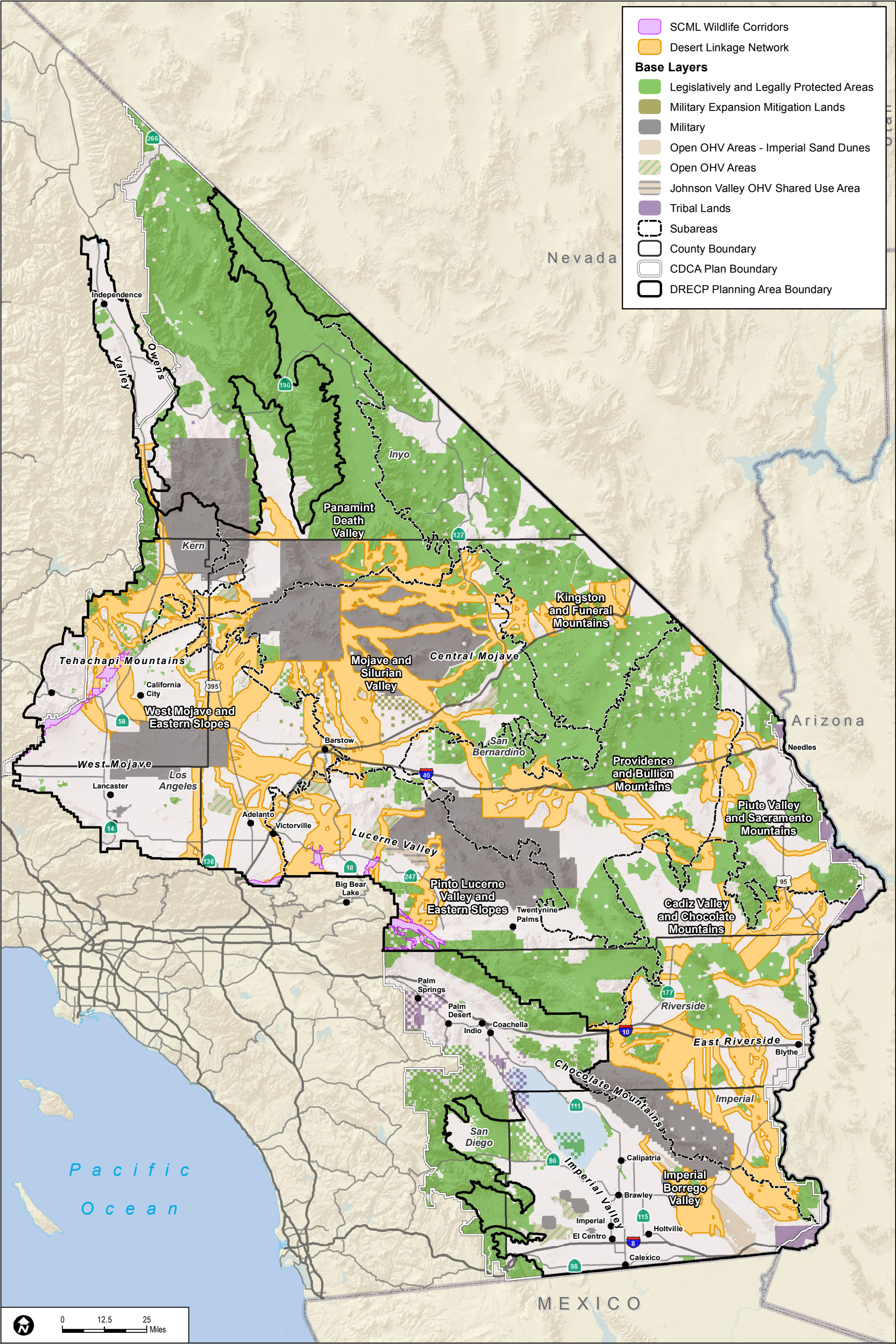
The provisions from the Draft in section H.2.9 have been relocated to CMAs **LUPA-BIO-1**, and **LUPA-BIO-IFS-4**. As specified in CMAs **DFA-VPL-BIO-IFS-1** and **DFA-VPL-BIO-IFS-3** for activities proposed within DFAs and VPLs, the survey requirement areas for desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel within DFAs and VPLs of the Preferred Alternative are shown in Figure H-4 and Figure H-6.



Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-1
Eastern Riverside SEZ Linkages

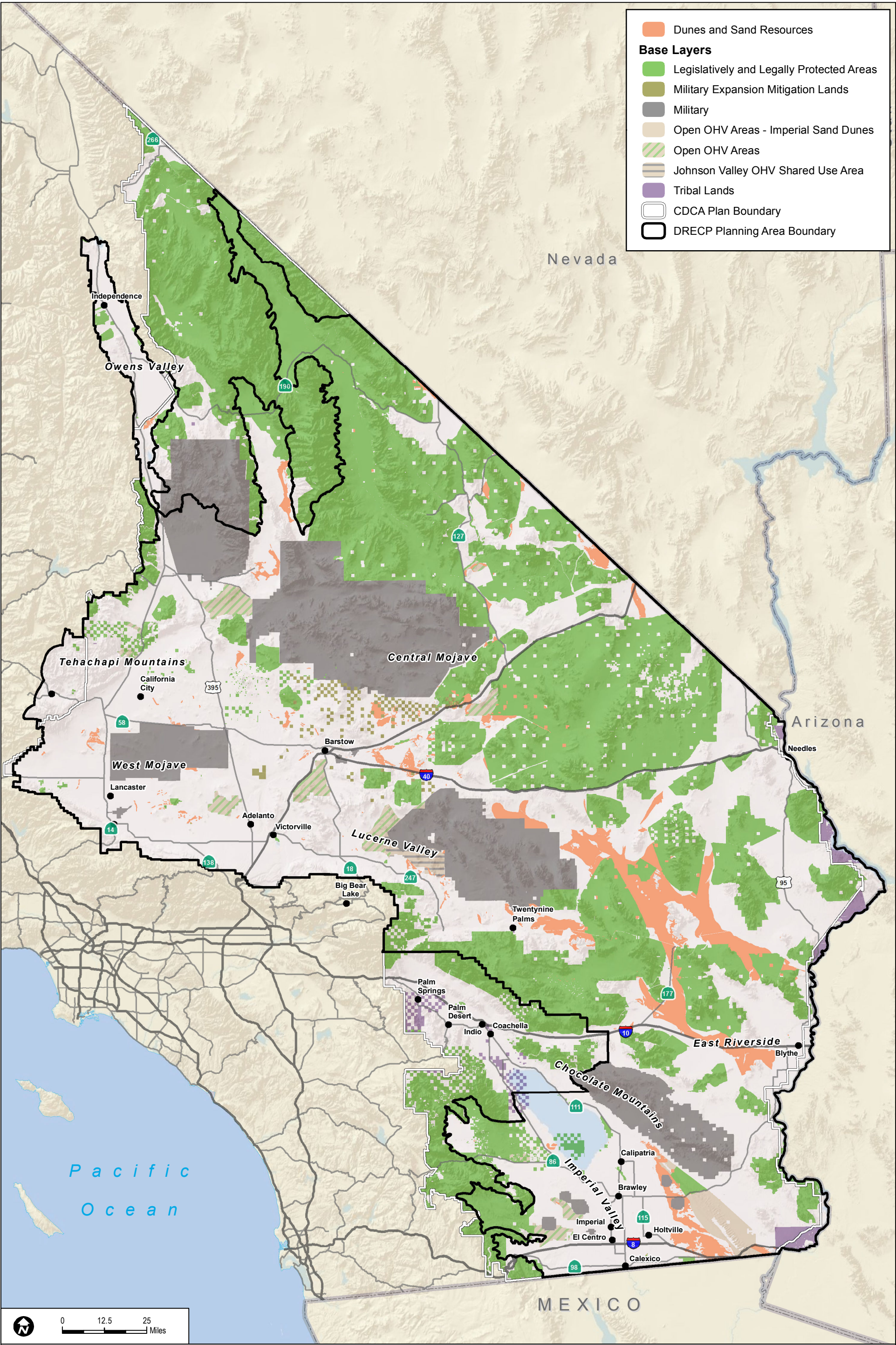
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Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-2
Landscape-level Linkage CMA

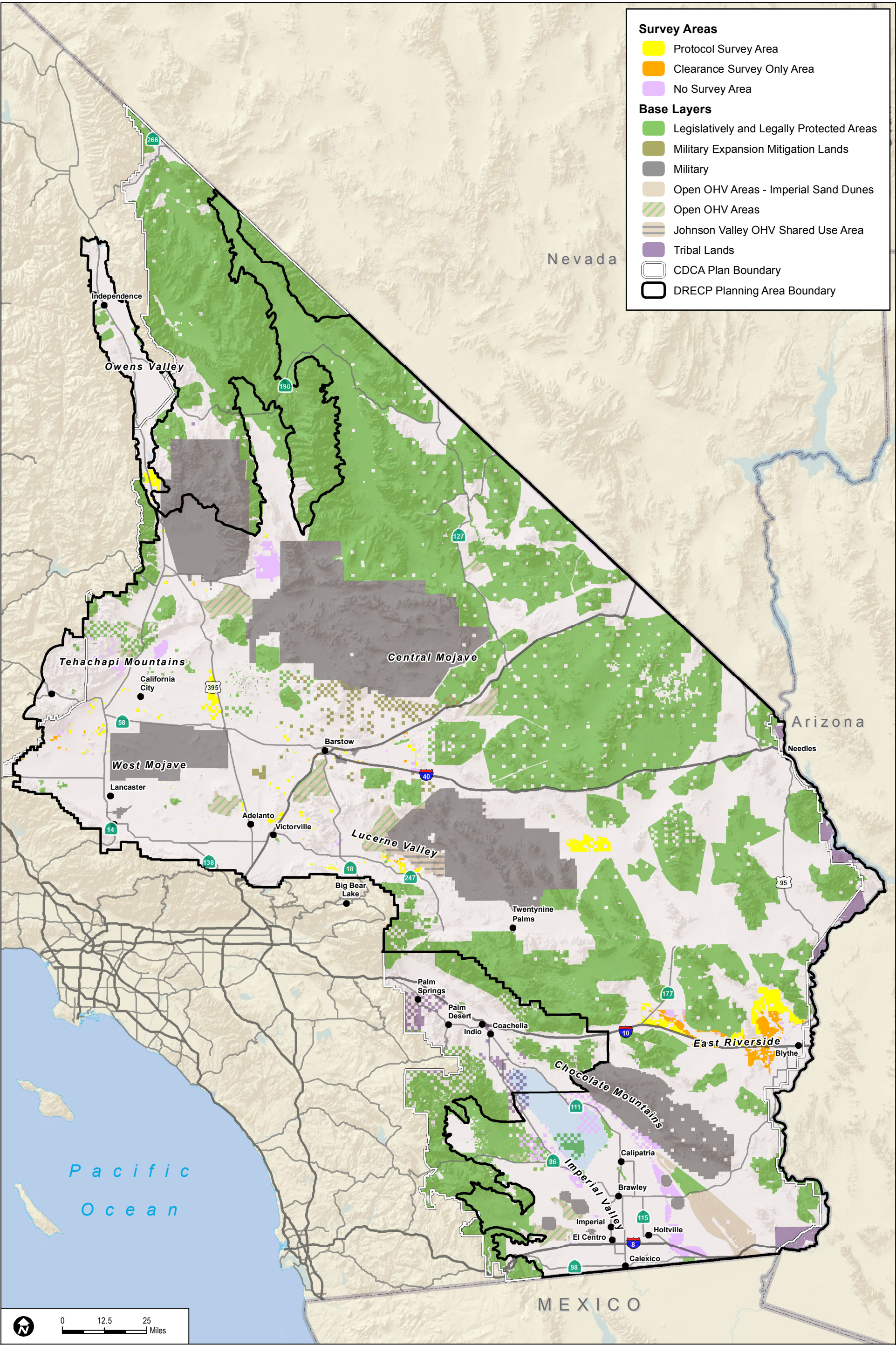
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Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-3
Aeolian and Sand Transport Areas

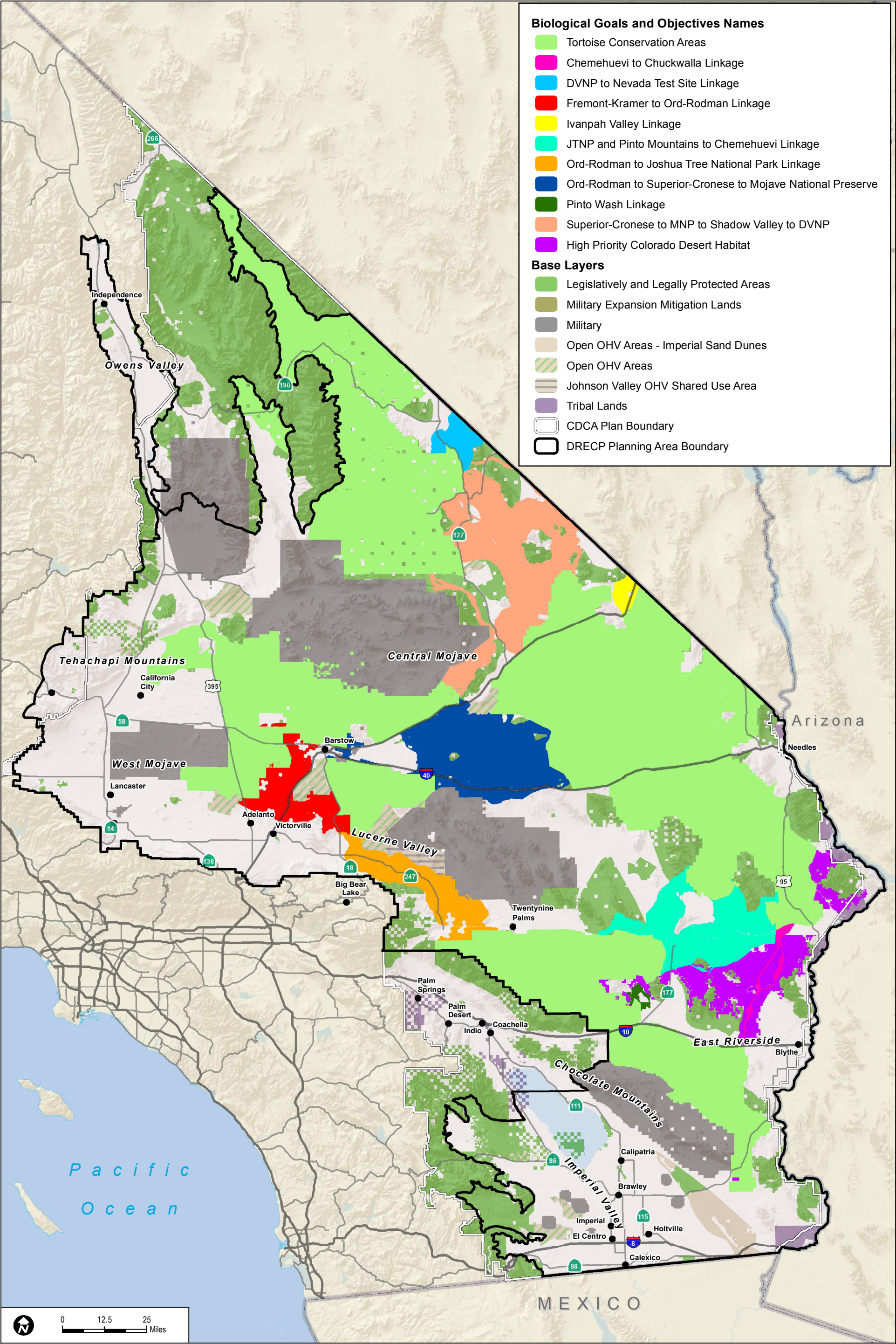
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Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-4
Desert Tortoise Survey Areas

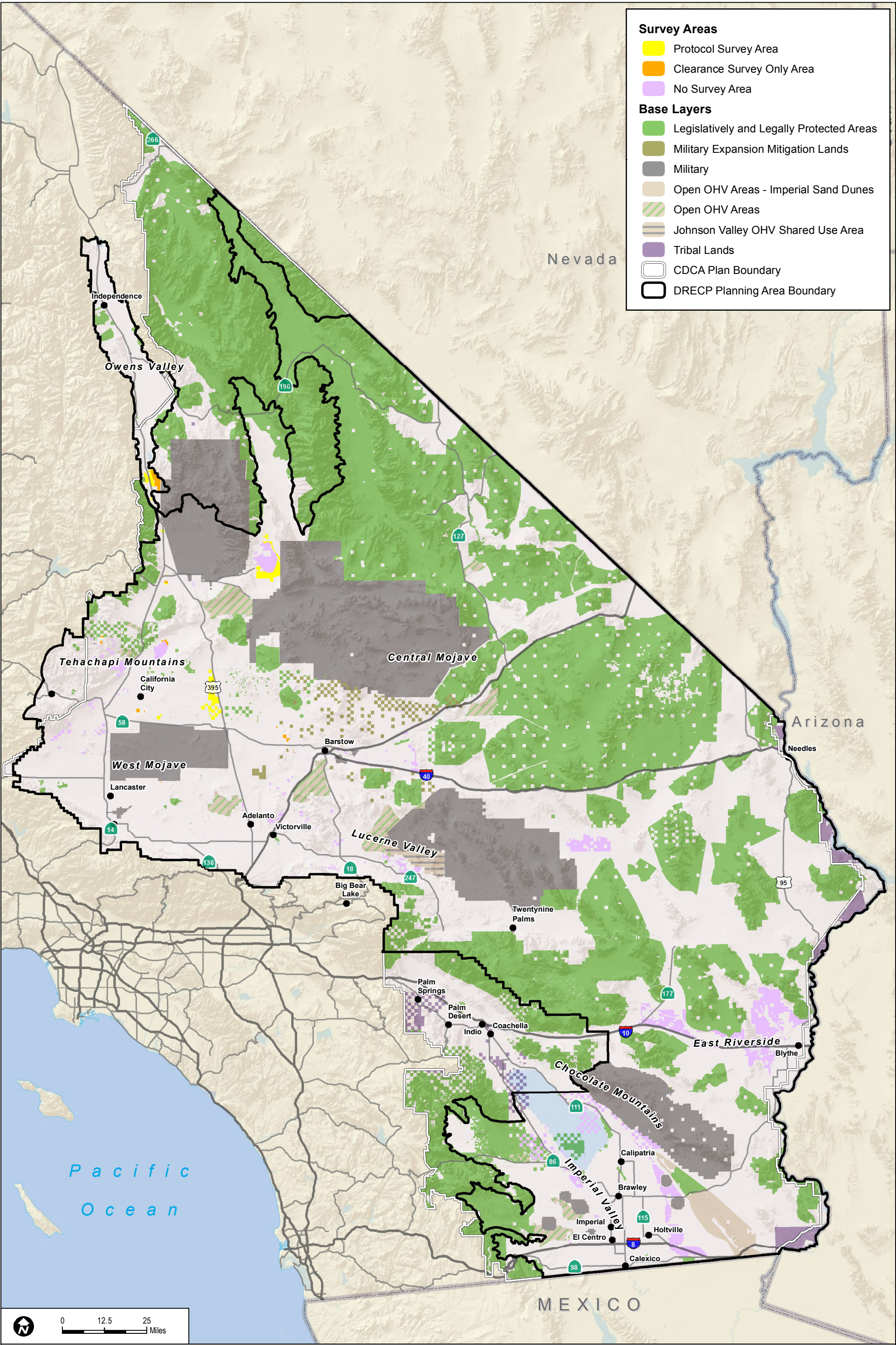
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Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-5
Desert Tortoise Biological Goals and Objectives Names

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Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2015); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE H-6
Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Areas

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H.2.10 Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas and Linkages

See Figure H-5 depicting desert tortoise conservation areas and linkages.

H.2.11 Approach to Golden Eagle Coverage

The programmatic strategy in the Draft DRECP from the USFWS and CDFW for the evaluation and authorization of incidental take of golden eagles through the DRECP NCCPA and ESA GCP is not applicable to Phase I of the DRECP, BLM managed lands, and therefore has been removed from the DRECP BLM Proposed LUPA and Final EIS. BLM is not seeking a programmatic permit for incidental take of golden eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act).

As proposed in the LUPA, potential authorization of incidental take of golden eagles on BLM managed land will be addressed on an activity specific basis through the USFWS's Eagle Act permitting authorities, and in coordination with CDFW as appropriate, consistent with BLM policies.

The BLM Proposed LUPA contains CMAs for conservation of golden eagles consistent with the Eagle Act, BLM policies, and the USFWS Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance. The approach and logic described in the Draft, used to design the CMAs, remains valid and applicable.

The most up-to-date USFWS Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance should be utilized when implementing eagle CMAs.

In addition to requiring and implementing CMAs, the BLM will also continue to work cooperatively on eagle research, monitoring, adaptive management, and desert-wide conservation with the other REAT agencies – USFWS, CDFW and CEC.

H.2.12 Mohave Ground Squirrel Important Areas

Pursuant to CMAs **DFA-VPL-BIO-IFS-1**, the key population centers and linkages within DFAs and VPLs would require protocol surveys as shown in Figure H-6, Mohave Ground Survey Requirement Areas.

H.3 Approach to Determining Compensation

The process, logic and approach, as presented in the Draft DRECP, for determining biological compensation remains valid and applicable for the Proposed LUPA and Final EIS for impacts from activities on BLM managed land. This approach includes standard compensation ratios and exceptions for Focus and BLM Special Status Species within the DRECP plan area and LUPA decision area.

H.4 Application of the Compensation Approach to the DRECP Alternatives

The methodology and logic, as presented in the Draft DRECP, for determining the application of biological compensation for the alternatives remains valid and applicable for the Proposed LUPA and Final EIS for impacts from activities on BLM managed land. Refer to Volume IV, Section IV.7.1 and IV.7.2 for the application of compensation for the LUPA alternatives.

H.5 Literature Cited

The literature used for development of Appendix H in the Draft DRECP remains valid and applicable for the BLM LUPA and Final EIS.